



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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1940 REVIEW ISSUED BY NEW ORLEANS FISHERY MARKET NEWS OFFICE

Production of 97,830,000 pounds of various kinds of sea food--not including oysters--was reported during 1940 to the New Orleans Fishery Market News office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, according to information contained in their first annual summary released today.

The data included in this summary represent a recapitulation of the information listed in the Production section of the daily report issued by the New Orleans office. Since it is not practicable to cover completely the production of the coastal areas of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, the figures shown cover only the more important production points and cannot be considered as totals for the States listed.

As 1940 was the first year of operation for this office, comparative information for previous years is not available.

A total of 39 classifications was reported on during 1940, 5 being fresh-water fish, 22 salt-water fish, and 12 shellfish and miscellaneous items. Shrimp was by far the most important variety, accounting for 80 percent of the

total production exclusive of oysters. Hard crab landings accounted for 12 percent of the remainder.

The oyster production reported totaled 151,070 barrels but covered only December for oysters for canning, and October, November, and December for other purposes. The most important fresh-water species were catfish, which accounted for 61 percent of the total poundage, and buffalofish and gaspergou. The most important salt-water fish were red snapper, mullet, grouper, and red drum (redfish).

The greatest production of fresh-water fish occurred during the period from March to May. The most important months for the production of salt-water fish were October, November, and December. The increase in these months was due primarily to larger catches of red snapper and mullet, particularly in Mobile and Bayou Labatre. Most of the shrimp catch was taken during the period from August to December, when 68 percent of the total was landed. Approximately 93 percent of the total shrimp reported for canning was taken during this period. The four best months for the production of crabs were May, June, July, and August.

According to dealers, 1940 was the poorest year for salt-water fish that anyone can remember. Production of shrimp is believed to be somewhat less than 1939, but better than most previous years. During the latter part of the year a distinct shortage of jumbo shrimp was noticeable.

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